

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing replaces all previous listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing a base element with a planar top surface, first and second ends, and opposite sides, the top surface having a linear mating edge on the opposite sides of the planar top surface, each linear mating edge having a continuous cross-section along the length of each linear mating edge, and each linear mating edge defining a first mounting structure, and the planar top surface being planar along an entirety of the base element extending between the first end and the second end, including between a first of the linear mating edges to a second of the linear mating edges, and between the first mounting structure of the first linear mating edge to the first mounting structure of the second mating edge;

mounting a plurality of side elements to the base element along the linear mating edges by attaching second mounting structures formed on the side elements with the first mounting structure of the respective linear mating edge, the first and second mounting structures being connected to couple the side elements to the base element, a first plurality of the side elements having an upstanding wall portion extending to a vertical height above the planar top surface of the base element, a second plurality of the side elements defining side exits extending transversely relative to the linear mating edges, and generally parallel to the planar top surface; and

mounting the base element at a vertical height above a telecommunications bay.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the side elements of the second plurality of side elements includes a downspout portion to define a cable pathway extending from the planar top surface to a location below the planar top surface.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing a base element with a planar top surface, an opposite facing bottom surface, the base element including first and second ends, and first and second sides, the ends and the sides

forming a perimeter of the base element, each of the sides having a continuous cross-section along the length of each side, the planar top surface being planar along an entirety of the base element extending to the perimeter, and each of the sides defining a first mounting structure positioned within the perimeter;

selecting a plurality of mating elements from a group consisting of: mating base elements, upstanding wall elements, and side exit elements including at least one horizontal side exit and at least one downspout;

mounting a second mounting structure of the selected mating elements to the base element along the sides to form the cable routing system, wherein the first or second mounting structures fits within the other of the first or second mounting structures to couple the selected mating elements to the base element, and wherein the mating elements form a continuous surface along the sides of the base element; and

mounting at least one horizontal side exit and at least one downspout to the base element.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of rectangular base elements, each base element having a planar top surface, two opposite sides, and two opposite ends, the planar top surface being planar along an entirety of the base element extending between the two opposite sides and the two opposite ends, and the base elements having a continuous cross-section in a direction parallel to the opposite sides;

mounting the base elements together to form a base having a planar top surface ~~including~~ extending to outermost edges defined by one or more of the opposite sides and opposite ends of the base elements;

mounting a plurality of side elements to the base along the opposite sides of the base elements by connecting a first mounting structure defined by the side of the base to a second mounting structure defined by the side elements, wherein the first or second mounting structures fits within the other of the first or second mounting structures to couple the side elements to the base, and wherein at least first and second side elements of the plurality of side elements include

upstanding wall portions extending to a vertical height above the planar top surface of the base elements, and wherein a third side element of the plurality of side elements includes a side exit defining portion for exiting parallel to the planar top surface of the base.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the third side element further defines a downspout portion extending from the side exit defining portion extending below the planar top surface of the base.